

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

MALANDRA, Charles, R., Jr.
Pitney Bowes Inc.
Intellectual Property Law Dept.
35 Waterview Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 05 July 2000 (05.07.00)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference E-731	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION	
International application No. PCT/US98/12081	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 June 1998 (12.06.98)	
International publication date (day/month/year) 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 June 1997 (13.06.97)	
Applicant PITNEY BOWES INC. et al		

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An asterisk(*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, **the attention of the applicant is directed** to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, **the attention of the applicant is directed** to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

Priority date	Priority application No.	Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office	Date of receipt of priority document
13 June 1997 (13.06.97)	60/049,518	US	19 June 2000 (19.06.00)

RECEIVED
AUG - 9 2000
IPC2100 MAIL ROOM

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Marie-José Devillard Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38
--	---



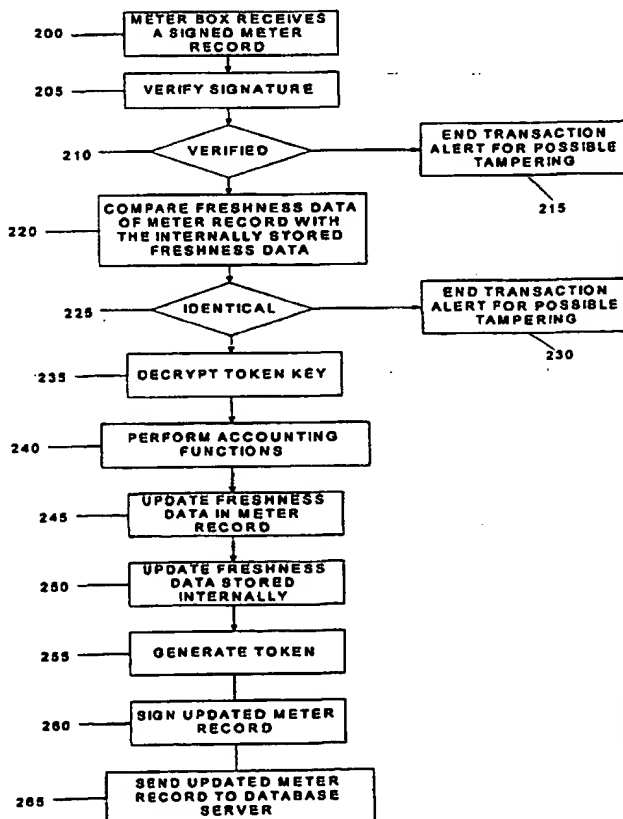
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G07B 17/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/57302
			(43) International Publication Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/12081 (22) International Filing Date: 12 June 1998 (12.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/049,518 13 June 1997 (13.06.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PITNEY BOWES INC. [-/US]; One Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GRAVELL, Linda, V. [US/US]; 711 Beacon Park, Webster, MA 01570 (US). RILEY, David, W. [US/US]; 31 Woodland Drive, Easton, CT 06612 (US). PINTSOV, Leon, A. [US/US]; 10 Governors Row, West Hartford, CT 06117 (US). RAHRIG, John, G. [US/US]; 108 Phillips Street, Stratford, CT 06497 (US). PIERCE, Jeffrey, D. [US/US]; 4 Naples Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06855 (US). (74) Agent: MALANDRA, Charles, R., Jr.; Pitney Bowes Inc., Intellectual Property Law Dept., 35 Waterview Drive, Shelton, CT 06484 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: VIRTUAL POSTAGE METERING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A virtual postage metering system (10) and method provides value added services corresponding to postage metering transactions. Funds are not stored at the user's site reducing the risk of unauthorized modification of account balances. There is a database record (60) of every mail piece, which means that verification will be improved since all valid mail pieces are known. Furthermore, the present invention enables the postal service to know the volume of mail to be processed prior to receipt of the physical mail pieces. Since more mailer data is available (e.g. when users usually mail, how much mail per day, average postage amount) the virtual postage metering system (10) enables the postal service to predict mail handling patterns. Finally, users have the option to pay as they go (130) which contrasts present systems in which funds must be on deposit prior to being downloaded to a meter although such downloaded funds may remain in the meter for weeks before being used.



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/12081

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G07B 17/00

US CL : 705/404, 410

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 340/825.35; 395/200.3, 200.33, 200.47; 705/401, 404, 410

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

None

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,873,645 A (HUNTER ET AL) 10 OCTOBER 1989, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
X	US 5,233,657 A (GUNTHER) 03 AUGUST 1993, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,454,038 A (CORDERY ET AL) 26 SEPTEMBER 1995, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,602,742 A (SOLONDZ ET AL) 11 FEBRUARY 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,625,694 A (LEE ET AL) 29 APRIL 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A, P	US 5,675,650 A (CORDERY ET AL) 07 OCTOBER 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 SEPTEMBER 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 OCT 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

EDWARD R. COSIMANO

Telephone No. (703)-305-9783

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/12081

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 5,682,429 A (CORDERY et al) 28 October 1997, see abstract.	1-8
A, E	US 5,781,634 A (CORDERY et al) 14 July 1998, see abstract.	1-8
A, E	US 5,796,841 A (CORDERY et al) 18 August 1998, see abstract.	1-8